



## CIRCULAR.

NEW-YORK, 4th March, 1818.

SIR,

We are instructed to transmit to you the annexed documents of the Medical Society of the State of New-York, respecting the formation of a National Pharmacopœia. It is desirable that, according to their tenor, they should be submitted to the medical associations throughout the Union. We invite you to promote this design, and at the same time solicit your individual contributions to the work contemplated.

In requesting your co-operation in this enterprise, we do not wish to conceal its difficulties. The object, however, is of such professional magnitude, and so highly important in a national point of view, that it is hoped, all will unite in the most zealous endeavours to attain it.

You will perceive the necessity of giving early attention to the subject, and also of transmitting to this committee whatever resolutions may be adopted, that they may be communicated to other societies.

In the appointment of delegates, it is scarcely necessary to suggest the propriety of selecting gentlemen distinguished for their abilities and learning, and who will zealously engage in this undertaking. It is particularly proper to impress the importance of these points on the incorporated State Medical Societies, and others, in the immediate vicinity of the probable places of the meetings of the district conventions; for on these delegates much of the labour of forming the district Pharmacopœias must eventually devolve.

Each delegation should be furnished with a copy of the proceedings of their constituents, attached to their credentials; and each district convention should furnish a general record, as evidence of the authority of its delegation.

It is greatly to be wished, that every indigenous article, deserving a place in a Pharmacopœia, should be introduced into this national work, so as to render it as truly American as possible.

This object will be promoted by an attention on the part of the delegates to such native plants as are most in use in their own vicinity; and in order to identify more exactly the articles alluded to, it will be advantageous to furnish the district conventions with specimens of the same, collected when in flower, and carefully dried between folds of blotting-paper, accompanying them with the local or popular names. Every delegate, on his appointment, will therefore consider it his duty to collect such formulæ as are in common use in the district of his residence, and have received the sanction of experience.

If it should be more convenient for any delegation to meet in the convention of either of the districts, other than that in which they are geographically located, it is presumed that no objections can arise to such an arrangement.

It will be highly gratifying to us to learn from the several incorporated State Medical Societies, the several incorporated Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, or Medical Schools, and

such Medical Schools as form a faculty in any incorporated University or College in the Union, that the design of forming an American Pharmacopœia receives their approbation.

All communications, from the before named institutions, may be addressed to Lyman Spalding, M. D. New-York.

We have the honour to be your humble servants,

DAVID HOSACK,  
JOHN R. B. RODGERS,  
SAMUEL L. MITCHILL,  
JOHN STEARNS,  
JOHN WATTS, Junr.  
T. ROMEYN BECK,  
LYMAN SPALDING,  
WRIGHT POST,  
ALEX. H. STEVENS.

} Committee.

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*Extract from the Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New-York, for the year 1818.*

WHEREAS a uniform system of preparing, and compounding medicines, throughout the United States, would contribute much to the satisfaction of the practitioner, and obviate many existing sources of embarrassment and danger; And whereas much diversity does now prevail in pharmaceutical preparations in the different sections and states of the Union, in consequence of the various Pharmacopœias which are adopted—such as Coxe's Dispensatory, the Massachusetts Medical Society's Pharmacopœia, Thaeher's Dispensatory, the New-York Hospital Pharmacopœia, the Edinburgh Dispensatory, the London Dispensatory, the London Pharmacopœia, the Dublin Pharmacopœia, the Parisian Pharmacopœia, &c.—which accounts for a well-known fact; that the traveller finds a different preparation, under the same name, in almost every village, town, or city, in which he may chance to be indisposed; for so multifarious are the names of medicines, that a name which is common in one town may be unknown in another, or, what is worse, be applied to a very different medicine. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That it is expedient that a Pharmacopœia should be formed for the use of the United States.

*Resolved*, That the several incorporated state medical societies, the several incorporated colleges of physicians and surgeons, or medical schools, and such medical schools as constitute a faculty in any incorporated university or college in the United States, be respectfully invited to unite in the formation of the American Pharmacopœia; and in case there should be any state or territory in the Union, in which there is no incorporated medical society, medical college, or school, that voluntary associations of physicians and surgeons, in such state or territory, be respectfully invited to unite in this undertaking.

*Resolved*, That to form an American Pharmacopœia, it is expedient to divide the United States and territories into four districts, viz. the northern, middle, southern, and western.

*Resolved*, That a convention be called in each of these districts.

*Resolved*, That each state medical society, college of physicians and surgeons, medical school, faculty of medicine, and voluntary association, as before described, be invited to appoint one or more delegates to meet in a district convention.

*Resolved*, That each district convention form a Pharmacopœia, or select one in general use, and make therein such alterations and additions as shall adapt it to the present state of medical science.

*Resolved*, That each district convention be requested to appoint one or more delegates, to meet in a general convention, and submit to the same their Pharmacopœias.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to each medical society, &c. to defray the expenses of its own delegation, and its proportion of the expenses of the district convention.

*Resolved*, That the general convention be held in the city of Washington on the first day of January, A. D. 1820, for the purpose of compiling the American Pharmacopœia from those Pharmacopœias which may be presented by the district conventions.

*Resolved*, That the general convention adopt a plan for revising the American Pharmacopœia at the end of every ten years, and that no alteration be made therein except at those periods, and then only by the authority aforesaid.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to every medical society, &c. to adopt the American Pharmacopœia, and encourage the use of it by all druggists and apothecaries.

*Resolved*, That the general convention sell, for ten years, the copy right of the American Pharmacopœia.

*Resolved*, That the general convention defray their expenses out of the proceeds of the sale, and divide the surplus equally among all the societies, &c. which were represented in the district conventions.

*Resolved*, That this Society do now appoint David Hosack, M. D. J. R. B. Rodgers, M. D. Samuel L. Mitchell, M. D. John Stearns, M. D. John Watts, jun. M. D. T. Romeyn Beck, M. D. Lyman Spalding, M. D. Wright Post, M. D. and Alexander H. Stevens, M. D. delegates to meet in district convention, for the purpose of forming a Pharmacopœia.

*Resolved*, That the delegates appointed by this Society be a special committee to correspond with all the incorporated state medical societies, &c. in the Union, and such influential medical men as they may deem proper.

*Resolved*, That if a majority of the incorporated state medical societies, incorporated medical colleges, medical schools, and faculties of medicine, in the United States, approve of the formation of an American Pharmacopœia, that it be undertaken.

*Resolved*, That when it shall be ascertained that a majority of the societies, &c. approve of the formation of a Pharmacopœia, the special committee of correspondence of the New-York State Medical Society, shall give public notice, as well as notice to all incorporated state medical societies, &c. that an American Pharmacopœia will be formed.

*Resolved*, That in order to fix on times and places for holding the several district conventions, the special committee of correspondence be directed to request the several societies, &c. to name what time and place, in their opinion, would be most convenient for the meeting of the convention in their district; and when the formation of a Pharmacopœia is agreed on, that the aforesaid committee transmit to each society, &c. the names of the several places in their district, and the times which have been mentioned, and point out what time and place have the most votes, and submit to the several societies, &c. if such time and place would be most convenient.

*Resolved*, That this Society would propose the first day of June, A. D. 1819, and the city of Philadelphia, as a convenient time and place, for the meeting of the convention, in the district known by the name of the Middle States.

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Mr. G

S. L. Johnson  
Snow, Miss.

Pawtucket,

A. A.

